



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

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OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Government takes services to the people

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Holomisa community members standing on queues waiting to access SASSA services.



SASSA employees assisting people with grant applications.

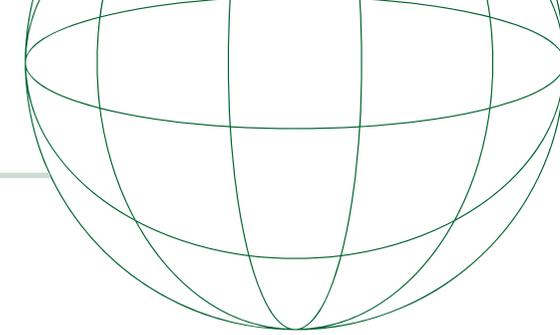
In an effort to bring government services closer to the people, on 11 March 2016 the Westrand Ntirhisano War Room Forum was part of a service delivery outreach at Holomisa informal settlement in Bekkersdal. The purpose of the outreach was to give community members a platform to engage with different government departments and access government opportunities and services rendered at the event.

The Ntirhisano project was launched by Gauteng Premier David Makhura as part of his commitment to improve service delivery in the province. The outreach, led by the Westrand District Municipality has already reached more than 5 000 people in all municipalities in the district. "In this programme we provide on site services such as young people getting registered to projects such as Tshepo 500 000 for job placements, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) services, and we also provide counselling and advice to small businesses. We further attend to housing problems through our team from the Department of Human Settlements. Non-governmental organisations such as Project Hope conduct tests on sugar diabetes, high blood, and also offer HIV and AIDS testing and counselling," said Sabelo Ngwane, Chairperson of the forum. He said that it is important that government departments and entities form part of the forum as it becomes easy to work together in integrated projects to render government services to communities.



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Michael Bogogolela from Mogale City assisting a community member with government information.

Other stakeholders that were part of the outreach programme included the departments of social development, economic development and home affairs, Westonaria Local Municipality and the Lesotho Special Project. The Department of Correctional Services visited local schools during the outreach with five inmates to address learners about the dangers of crime and substance abuse.

Ndumiso Ngceke was appreciative of the information he received from the Department of Home Affairs and was glad to hear that he can now apply for the smart ID card and not for a green ID book anymore at Randfontein Home Affairs.

The Westrand community development workers were also present to assist in completing Ntirhisano complaint forms, which will be compiled and taken to the Office of the Premier for consolidation and referred to relevant departments for speedy response.



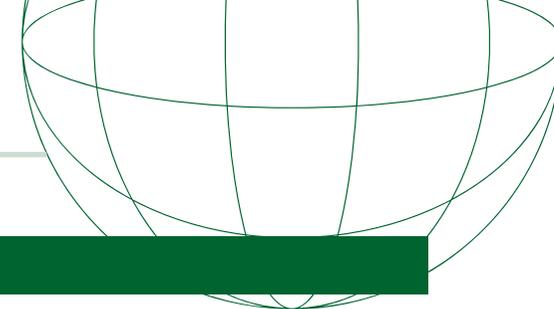
Ndumiso Ngceke said:
“Coming here today has helped me a lot. I came here to apply for a green ID book but was advised to come to Randfontein Home Affairs to apply for the new smart ID card. It helps as I do not have to travel further to Krugersdorp office to apply for it, which would have cost me a lot of money in travelling.”



Veronica Nhlapo said:
“I am happy with the services that I have received today. I was able to apply for a social relief grant from SASSA to help with the orphans that I am taking care of.”



Mgoduka Nontsapo said:
“I appreciate the information I received from the Department of Human Settlements. Today I heard that I have made the list of people who qualify to receive houses. It is good to know that soon I will be having my own house and moving out of the shack I have been living in for so long.”



Siphesihle Nkosi said:

“I am happy to be here. Today I saw a library, I will come to the library to get more information.”



Nonjabulo Khumalo said:

“I was happy when I saw many things inside the library. There are many books that one can read inside the library.”



Legal Aid SA officials at their exhibition stall.

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Driefontein community celebrates Library Week

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Pre-school learners being exposed to the library environment.



Primary school learners from Malibongwe Primary School performing a musical item.



Learners from various schools attended the event at Driefontein Library.

The Department of Culture Sports and Recreation (DCSR) in Mpumalanga spearheaded the celebration of Library Week by marketing the Driefontein Community Library. Learners from Malibongwe, Qalani and Cabangani primary schools, and Qedela Secondary School were in attendance and showcased their talents through poetry, music and dance. The event took place at Mpuluzi Thusong Service Centre on 14 March 2016.

A councillor from Mkhondo Local Municipality said, “It is important that you use this library to gain knowledge because knowledge is power. One day you will become our leaders, and it is important that you become leaders who are knowledgeable. Therefore, use this library well. To the community, when you complain about shortage of water to the municipality, it does not mean that you have to burn this library for you to get water. That is completely wrong. Use relevant platforms to address challenges, instead of destroying what you already have.”

Stakeholders such as the Government Communication and Information System, Gert Sibande District Municipality, Legal Aid SA and Anova Institute, distributed information booklets such as *Vuk'uzenzele*, Pocket Guide to South Africa, Department of Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators, and other flyers to support the library's information-sharing through booklets and flyers.

The DCSR Regional Director Owen Pretorius said, “You have the responsibility to protect this library. In Piet Retief at Thandukukhanya township they burned down a public library, they will wait until we finish building libraries that are in the pipeline before we can rebuild their library. Use this library to get information, to do your research and be responsible friends of the library.”

Various performances by the learners also highlighted the importance of libraries. The Driefontein Community Library was also well marketed to the learners and community members.



OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH

Government opens opportunities for young people

By Xolani Mndaweni: GCIS, North West



Minister Nzimande, City of Matlosana Mayor Kagiso Khaueo, Premier Mahumapelo and Kgosi Zibi cutting the ribbon to officially open the Skills Development Centre.



Minister Nzimande and Premier Mahumapelo opening the first North West Services SETA offices.



Minister Nzimande and Premier Mahumapelo officially opening the centre.

Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande officially opened the North West Skills Development Centre and the Services Sectoral Education and Training Authority (SETA) office in Klerksdorp on 4 March 2016. The Minister was accompanied by Premier Supra Mahumapelo, Chairperson of the North West Traditional Leaders, Kgosi Madodfa Zibi, and different MECs in the grand opening. The Department of Higher Education and Training, together with the Services SETA, have committed R30 million towards various training programmes for the centre. This commitment aims to ensure that 400 young people have access to various training and skills development programmes.



Gloria Mbityo said:

“I am very happy that the Deputy Ministers visited us because there is so much that we need as a community, so it is a good thing when there is someone from government who is here to listen to our concerns.”



Ntombomhle Nkayi said:

“I am very happy that they have come to our area because we sometimes think we have been forgotten by our government. But today I am happy because I am one of the people who received food parcels. We were urged to stand up as women and work hard, start something for ourselves even if it is a small thing, one day it will grow if we put in enough effort.”

OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Joe Slovo residents commemorate International Women’s Day

By Zusiphe Mtirara: GCIS, Western Cape

International Relations Deputy Minister Nomaindia Mfeketo together with Human Settlements Deputy Minister Zou Kota-Fredericks visited the Joe Slovo informal settlement in Milnerton to commemorate International Women’s Day on 8 March 2016.

The event was held to celebrate women who endeavour to build institutions, systems and processes that promote and protect democracy and good governance, business and human rights, and the protection of children.

Deputy Minister Kota-Fredericks expressed her excitement and appreciated government’s efforts in ensuring visibility of women in leadership positions in the country.

“I am very excited about what government has done for women in particular. Women have achieved so much as members of Cabinet, as CEOs or as councillors. I am very happy that they have claimed their rightful places in the society,” she said.

Deputy Minister Mfeketo highlighted the country’s achievements in improving the lives of women nationally and internationally, and also encouraged women to work hard and use the opportunities that the women of 1956 fought for.

She further added that this day is not only for celebrations but also serves as a reminder of all the good stories and to also realise the challenges that government is facing and finding better ways to address them.

Gloria Mbityo, a resident of Joe Slovo, was very happy about the Deputy Ministers’ visit and said she has been motivated to do more in improving her life and of others.

“Today I learned that we really need to stand up as women and take charge of our lives and not always wait for government to help us. I am a sewer, I must work hard and create a brand for myself so that I am able to make money and train other people so that they can improve their lives too,” she said.



The Deputy Ministers interacting with local women at the event.